CHAPTER 603

CONTAINER CODING AND MARKING
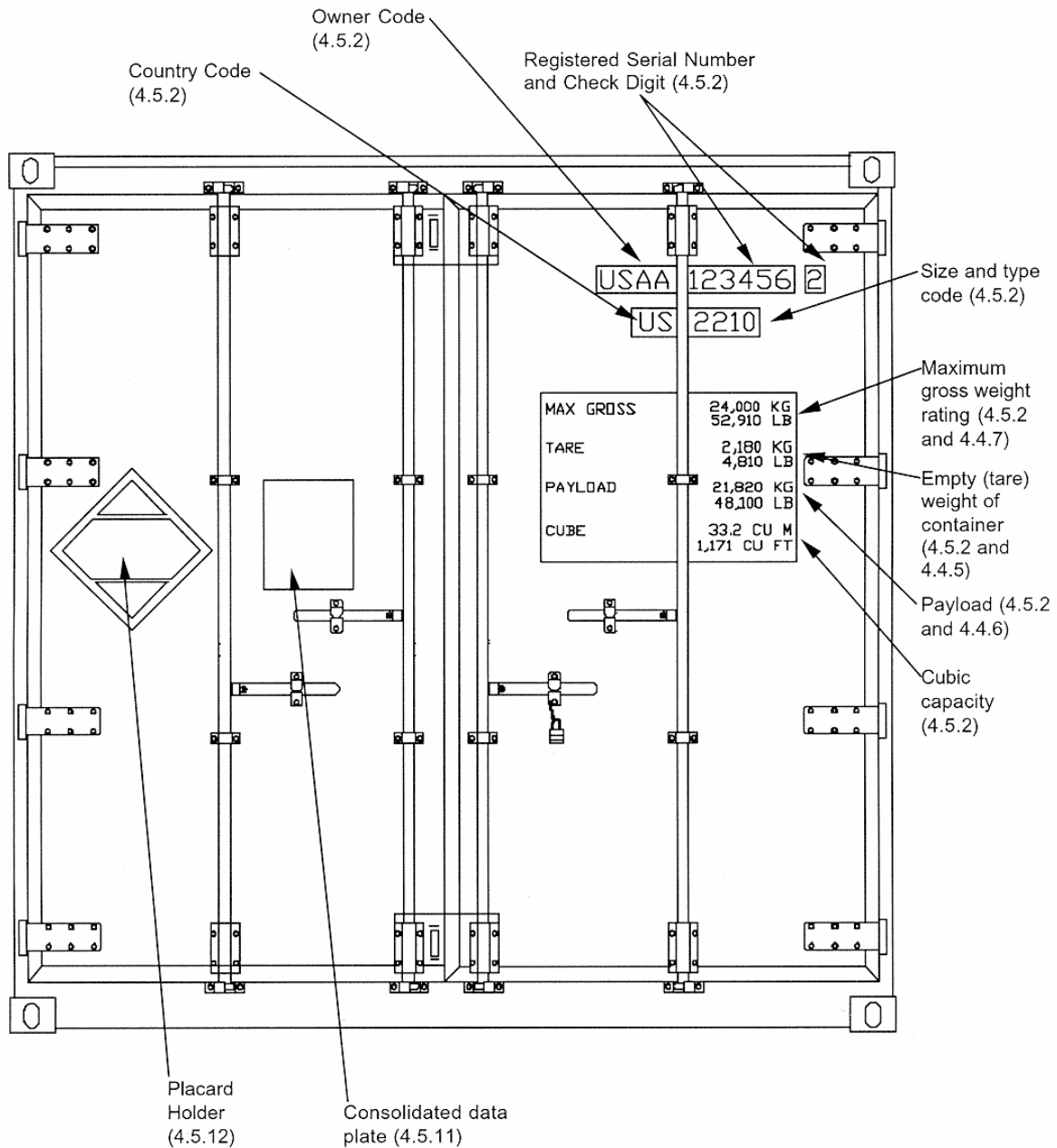
A. PURPOSE

This chapter provides uniform policies and procedures for coding and marking DOD-owned intermodal containers. These policies and procedures are mandatory for all DOD Components.
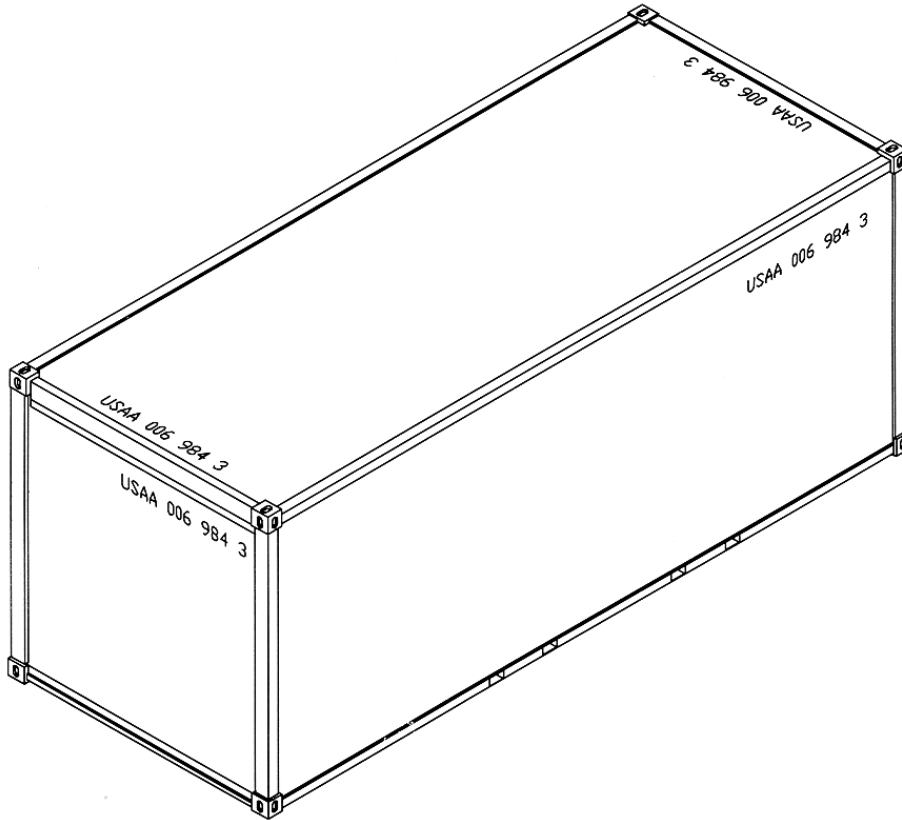
B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. USTRANSCOM. Establish procedures, assign responsibilities, and maintain a single register for all DOD-owned intermodal ISO containers. SDDC is the USTRANSCOM executive agent for containerization including coding and marking.

2. The DOD Components.

   a. Request ISO serial numbers from SDDC when purchasing new or used ISO containers.

      (1) When procuring new containers, provide SDDC with a full description of the container including the National Stock Number, overall dimensions and ISO size and/or type code, quantity, accountable owner DODAAC, and POC with phone number and mailing address and a copy of the contractual delivery order. SDDC will generate required ISO number(s), which will be stenciled on the containers by the manufacturer. When procuring modular ISO units such as Triple Containers and Quadruple Containers, a separate and distinct serial number will be assigned to each unit. Any requested serial numbers that are not used must be reported to SDDC for the removal from the ISO register.

      (2) When procuring used containers or purchasing leased containers, provide SDDC with the current four letter alpha prefix, six digit serial number and one-digit check digit, new accountable owner DODAAC, type container including overall dimensions, and POC with phone number and mailing address.

   b. Inspect new containers immediately upon receipt IAW Chapter 604. The initial CSC inspection of a new container is valid for five years. CSC reinspection and recertification is required at intervals not to exceed 30 months thereafter.

   c. Ensure newly procured containers have registered DOD ISO numbers and a CSC safety approval plate.

   d. Inventory Service unique, DOD-owned common-use, and CADS containers and specify expiration date of CSC decals as requested by SDDC.

   e. Budget and fund for coding and marking of Component-owned containers.
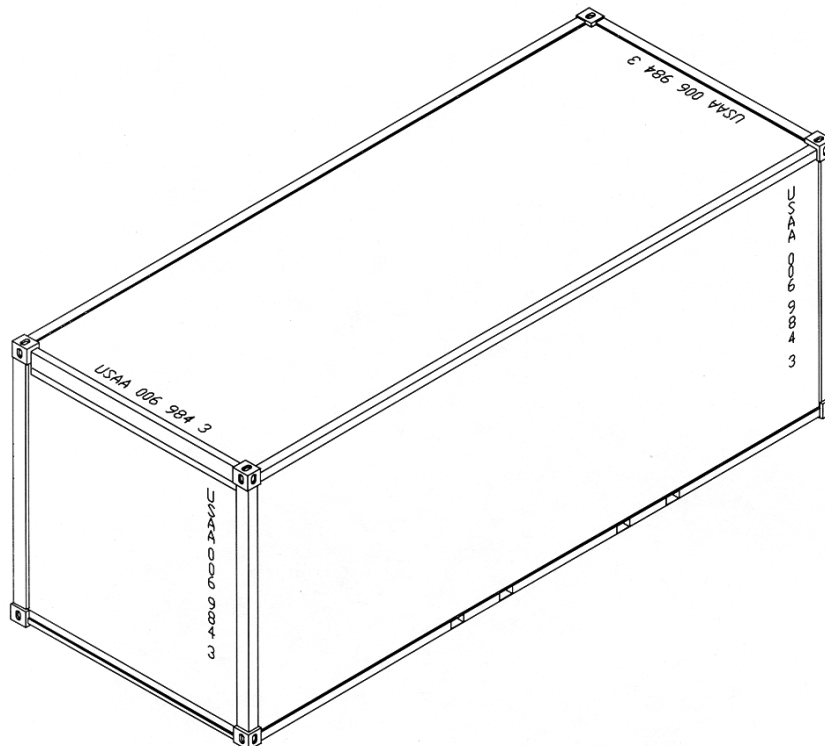
C. MARKING PROCEDURES

1. General. These procedures apply to all DOD-owned ISO containers.

2. ISO Number.

   a. Composition and Marking. The ISO number consists of 11 characters; a four-letter ownership code followed by a six-digit serial number, a hyphen, and a check digit. See Table 603-1 for examples. The ownership code, serial number, and check digit letters and numbers will be not less than four inches high. Maximum gross and tare weight letters and numbers will be not less than two inches high. All characters will be of proportionate width and thickness and will be durable and of a contrasting color. Maximum gross and tare weight figures will be displayed in both kilograms and pounds, consisting of five and four characters respectively.

   b. Placement. The ISO number will be placed on the upper-right section of all four-container sides. The number will be horizontal, if possible. If construction of the container does not permit easy application of horizontal numbers on the sides, (such as Flatracks), the number may be placed on the top rail or may be placed vertically. The ISO number will also be placed at each end of the roof with the bottom of each character toward the associated end. Maximum gross and tare weights will be displayed in both kilograms and pounds. See Figure 603-1 through Figure 603-4 for pictorial layouts of ISO identification markings.

   c. Ownership Codes. Currently assigned codes are listed in Table 603-2. To obtain a new ownership code, submit a request to SDDC including full description of the container including overall dimensions and ISO size and/or type code, quantity, accountable owner DODAAC, and POC with phone number and mailing address. SDDC will obtain approval for the new ownership code and pass it back to the DOD Component once it is assigned. Newly procured containers will be assigned four digit ownership codes ending in "U" to enable the new containers to be recognized by commercial industry ITV systems. Exception to this coding is made for Deployable Medical System containers, which will continue to use the "USAH" designation to identify US Army Hospital containers. Different component command container owners under the new ownership codes are recognized by distinct number series. Existing containers may be changed to the new ownership codes by reregistering in the SDDC register. Changing to the new ownership codes should be considered if the containers are to be equipped with ISO standard 10374 automatic equipment identification tags.

Owner Code
(4.5.2)

Country Code
(4.5.2)

Registered Serial Number
and Check Digit (4.5.2)

USAA 123456 2

US 2210

Size and type
code (4.5.2)

MAX GROSS   24,000 KG
              52,910 LB

TARE   2,180 KG
               4,810 LB

PAYLOAD   21,820 KG
              48,100 LB

CUBE   33.2 CU M
              1,171 CU FT

Maximum
gross weight
rating (4.5.2
and 4.4.7)

Empty (tare)
weight of
container
(4.5.2 and
4.4.5)

Payload (4.5.2
and 4.4.6)

Cubic
capacity
(4.5.2)

Placard
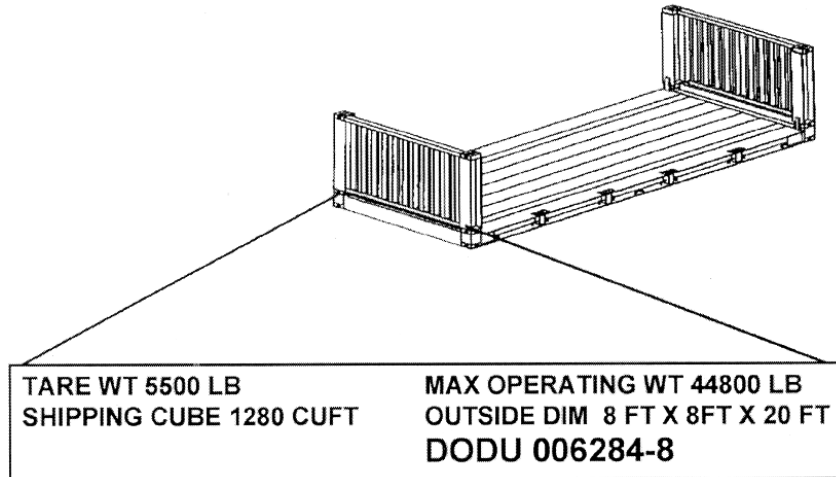Holder
(4.5.12)

Consolidated data
plate (4.5.11)

Figure 603-1. Typical Door Markings (from MIL-HDBK-138B)

Figure 603-2. Typical Horizontal Layout of ISO Identification Markings

Figure 603-3. Typical Vertical Layout of ISO Identification Markings

TARE WT 5500 LB
SHIPPING CUBE 1280 CUFT

MAX OPERATING WT 44800 LB
OUTSIDE DIM 8 FT X 8FT X 20 FT
DODU 006284-8

Figure 603-4. Typical Flatrack Markings

Table 603-1. Examples of ISO Number Composition

Example ISO Number	Designation
USAG 003209-0	Original general cargo MILVAN
USAG 060000-9	New general cargo MILVAN
USAA 005631-6	Original restraint MILVAN
USAR 000001-7	Refrigerated container

Table 603-2. ISO Ownership Codes Assigned to DOD Components and Associated Component Manager

Ownership Code	Component
USAA	US Army Ammunition/Ordnance (Retired)
USAG	US Army General Cargo (Retired)
USAR	US Army Refrigerated Vans (Retired)
USAF	US Army Flatrack (Retired)
USAH	US Army Hospital Vans
USAU	US Army
USSC/MHQU	Military Sealift Command
DODU	DOD Common-Use/CADS
USNG	US Navy General Cargo (Retired)
USNU	US Navy
USNR	US Navy Refrigerated Vans (Retired)
USMU	US Marine Corps
USFU	US Air Force

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